

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 20-149V

UNPUBLISHED

FRANCIS E. SETHMAN, JR.,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: April 2, 2021

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Ruling on Entitlement; Concession;  
Table Injury; Influenza (Flu) Vaccine;  
Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS)

*Nancy Routh Meyers, Turning Point Litigation, Greensboro, NC, for petitioner.*

*Althea Walker Davis, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

### **RULING ON ENTITLEMENT**<sup>1</sup>

On February 13, 2020, Francis Sethman filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that that he suffered Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) as a result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine administered on September 27, 2018. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On March 31, 2021, Respondent filed his Rule 4(c) report in which he concedes that Petitioner is entitled to compensation in this case. Respondent’s Rule 4(c) Report at 1. Specifically, Respondent agrees that Petitioner suffered the Table injury of GBS following a flu vaccine within the Table time period and that there is not a preponderance of medical evidence that Petitioner’s GBS was due to a factor unrelated to the vaccination.

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<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished ruling contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims’ website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the ruling will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

*Id.* at 8-9. Respondent further agrees that the claim also meets the statutory severity requirement, as Petitioner's medical records show that he experienced sequela of his GBS for more than six months. *Id.*

**In view of Respondent's position and the evidence of record, I find that Petitioner is entitled to compensation.**

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Brian H. Corcoran**

Brian H. Corcoran  
Chief Special Master